

Women Grievance Cell in Educational Institutions

320. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Central and State Government Institutions, particularly schools and colleges, do not have Women Grievance Boxes/Women Grievance Cells to report the sexual harassment though the existing Government guidelines prescribe for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof in the light of a report stating that India is most dangerous country for women; and

(c) whether there is any mechanism in Government to check the availability of these cells in the educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 mandates all the workplaces including educational institutions to constitute Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) for receiving complaints of sexual harassment. Educational Institutions are also covered under the Act. The Act casts an obligation upon all the employers to constitute Internal Complaint Committee. If any employer fails to constitute an Internal Complaint Committee, or contravenes or attempts or abets contravention of other provisions of this Act or any rules made thereunder, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015. These Regulations describe responsibilities of the Higher Educational Institutions, grievance redressal mechanism, and process for making complaint and conducting inquiry, interim redressal punishment and compensations, consequences of non-compliance etc. UGC issues advisory to the Vice Chancellors of all the Universities requesting them to constitute an Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) and a special cell in their respective institutions to deal with the issues of the gender based violence and to conduct gender sensitization programme.

As informed by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), 'Complaint Redressal Committee' has been constituted at Head Quarter level as well as at the Regional Offices to tackle the sexual harassment cases against the women employees. KVS also conducts various gender sensitization and awareness programmes through training/workshops.
